

REMARKS

An amendment is offered to claim 1 to take out the word “exclusively” and replace it with a phrase “such that welding is not necessary”. This is intended to capture in claim 1 the joining by expansion while eliminating future arguments that others that add a superfluous weld while having all the claim elements would not infringe the claim. As a result the claim states that welding is not necessary as it is in the cited art leaving this claim as avoiding the art while at the same time covering the products of those who put on a superfluous weld to avoid infringement.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

01/28/2010

Date

/SteveRosenblatt/

Steve Rosenblatt

Reg. No. 30,799

281.724.8529

steve.rosenblatt@bakerhughes.com

Mossman, Kumar & Tyler, P.C.

11200 Westheimer Road, Suite 900

Houston, TX 77042

Tel.: 713.243.8782